

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement Document [between Jaysh al-Thawra, Northern Countryside Committee, and the Northern Operations Room]
Date	22 Jan 2016
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

The agreements relate to three different conflict contexts. Israel-Syria and Syria-Lebanon. The Syrian-Israeli conflict was a key factor for the Syrian intervention during the Lebanese Civil War, with Syrian-backed Palestinian Liberation Army units intervened in 1976 against the Palestinian/Leftist militias. Following a massacre at Tel al-Zaatar that year, Syria was forced to accept a ceasefire at a meeting of the Arab League. However, the Arab League also mandated an Arab Deterrence Force, consisting of mostly Syrian soldiers with token contributions from other Arab League states, thus further legitimizing the Syrian presence in Lebanon. During a second bout of fighting that began in 1989, caused by the formation of rival Lebanese regimes in East and West Beirut, the Syrian-backed regime won and in 1991 the 'Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination' was signed to legalize the Syrian occupation as a means to ensure the security of Syria. Syrian forces were forced to withdraw in 2005 following possible involvement in the assassination of Lebanon's President Hariri.

Syria-internal. In 2011, domestic upheaval following a wave of protests across the Arab World soon led to violent repression of protestors by Syrian government troops. The violence progressed steadily and by July 2011 the Free Syrian Army (FSA) was formed consisting of defected military units and new recruits. The FSA and rebel umbrella group known as the Syrian National Council represented the first attempt at coordinating rebel factions in late 2011. However, a steady influx of foreign fighters and increased sectarianism radicalised opposition groups, which relied on foreign funding. The nature of the conflict changed drastically in late 2013 as infighting among the opposition groups increased. One of the more significant developments was the split between the al-Qaeda outfits the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, ISIS), and Jabhat al-Nusra in early 2014 in addition to the intensified targeting of other rebel factions by ISIS fighters in particular, including the Kurdish Peshmerga, the FSA and other jihadist outfits. Since the summer of 2014, the conflict was further internationalized when ISIS announced the formation of an Islamic state eroding the state line between Iraq and Syria and also in mid-2015 when Russian forces intervened on behalf of the Bashar al-Assad government in Damascus.

Close
Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Syrian Local Agreements
Parties	Jaysh al-Thawra [trans. Army of Revolutionaries] [Signed]; the Northern Countryside Committee [Signed]; Commander of the Northern Operations Room, Lt. C. Abu Riyad [Signed]

Third parties	-
Description	Four point agreement in what is really an agreement of 'alliance' desling with: a ceasefire, prisoner release, inclusion of Jaysh al-Thawra into the front lines against ISIS, form of the judicial committee to investigate outstanding issues.

Agreement document	Sy_160122_Agreement between the FSA and Revolutionary Army_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	Sy_160122_Agreement between the FSA and Revolutionary Army_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Isolated example
Rationale	-> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; no culture of signing There was apparently no formally established mechanism to support this peace agreement. Although Jaysh al-Thawra was involved in a previous agreement (28/12/2015) in the same region, it looks like this agreement is a once-off pledge to form a coalition against common enemies. Thus, one cannot point to a culture of signing peace agreements to solve recurring issues.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	No link to the national peace process in Syria is mentioned in the agreement, neither it can be inferred from further research. First, the agreement does not involve local governance actors; and the signing parties themselves are not official state representative. Second, all parties to the agreement reject the national peace process, as it would maintain Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government in power. The agreement refers to both ISIS and the Syrian government as "enemies".
Name of Locale	Aleppo northern countryside
Nature of Locale	Region
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	36.586827, 37.045047
Participant type	Local armed group
Mediator, facilitator or similar	No mention of mediator or similar

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)	Page 1, In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate Page 1, Allah knows best the intention
Grievance List	Page 1, Due to the killings by gunfire and fire in the al-Rīf al-Shimālī in Aleppo between the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL) and the [Syrian] government and our belief in controlling arms of these enemies [...]
Cattle rustling/ banditry	No specific mention.
Social cover	No specific mention.
